

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Original) An air valve for an inflatable object, said air valve comprising:
 - a rigid, tubular valve body adapted to be disposed fixedly on the inflatable object and defining an air passage that has a front portion and a rear portion;
 - a sealing member disposed fixedly within said front portion of said air passage of said valve body;
 - a rotary member disposed rotatably on said valve body in such a manner to prevent forward and rearward movement of said rotary member relative to said valve body; and
 - a rigid, tubular movable member disposed movably and non-rotatably within said rear portion of said air passage and having a rear end opening that is adapted to be in fluid communication with a connection head of an inflation device in such a manner that the connection head is press fitted within said opening, and a front end wall that is formed with an aperture unit, through which said opening is in fluid communication with said air passage in said valve body, said aperture unit being aligned with said sealing member, said movable member being connected to said rotary member so that, when said rotary member rotates on said valve body, said movable member can move within said air passage between a sealing position, where said front end wall of said movable member abuts against said sealing member so as to close said aperture unit such that air flow between said opening in said movable member and said air passage in said valve body is stopped, and an open position, where said front end wall of said movable member is spaced apart from said sealing member so as to open said aperture unit in said movable member, thereby permitting air flow between said opening in said movable member and said air passage in said valve body.

2. (Currently Amended) ~~The air valve as claimed in Claim 1,~~ An air valve for an inflatable object, said air valve comprising:

a rigid, tubular valve body adapted to be disposed fixedly on the inflatable object and defining an air passage that has a front portion and a rear portion;

a sealing member disposed fixedly within said front portion of said air passage of said valve body;

a rotary member disposed rotatably on said valve body in such a manner to prevent forward and rearward movement of said rotary member relative to said valve body; and

a rigid, tubular movable member disposed movably and non-rotatably within said rear portion of said air passage and having a rear end opening that is adapted to be in fluid communication with a connection head of an inflation device in such a manner that the connection head is press fitted within said opening, and a front end wall that is formed with an aperture unit, through which said opening is in fluid communication with said air passage in said valve body, said aperture unit being aligned with said sealing member, said movable member being connected to said rotary member so that, when said rotary member rotates on said valve body, said movable member can move within said air passage between a sealing position, where said front end wall of said movable member abuts against said sealing member so as to close said aperture unit such that air flow between said opening in said movable member and said air passage in said valve body is stopped, and an open position, where said front end wall of said movable member is spaced apart from said sealing member so as to open said aperture unit in said movable member, thereby permitting air flow between said opening in said movable member and said air passage in said valve body,

wherein said valve body includes a generally circular tubular portion, which has an inner surface that is formed with an annular groove, said rotary member being shaped as a ring, being made of a plastic material, and being formed with a plurality of circumferentially extending integral ribs that are received slidably within said annular groove in said valve body so as to permit rotation of said rotary member relative to said valve body while preventing forward and rearward movement of said rotary member relative to said valve body.

3. (Currently Amended) ~~The air valve as claimed in Claim 2,~~ An air valve for an inflatable object, said air valve comprising:

a rigid, tubular valve body adapted to be disposed fixedly on the inflatable object and defining an air passage that has a front portion and a rear portion;

a sealing member disposed fixedly within said front portion of said air passage of said valve body;

a rotary member disposed rotatably on said valve body in such a manner to prevent forward and rearward movement of said rotary member relative to said valve body; and

a rigid, tubular movable member disposed movably and non-rotatably within said rear portion of said air passage and having a rear end opening that is adapted to be in fluid communication with a connection head of an inflation device in such a manner that the connection head is press fitted within said opening, and a front end wall that is formed with an aperture unit, through which said opening is in fluid communication with said air passage in said valve body, said aperture unit being aligned with said sealing member, said movable member being connected to said rotary member so that, when said rotary member rotates on said valve body, said movable member can move within said air passage between a sealing position, where

said front end wall of said movable member abuts against said sealing member so as to close said aperture unit such that air flow between said opening in said movable member and said air passage in said valve body is stopped, and an open position, where said front end wall of said movable member is spaced apart from said sealing member so as to open said aperture unit in said movable member, thereby permitting air flow between said opening in said movable member and said air passage in said valve body,

wherein said valve body includes a generally circular tubular portion, which has an inner surface that is formed with an annular groove, said rotary member being shaped as a ring, being made of a plastic material, and being formed with a plurality of circumferentially extending integral ribs that are received slidably within said annular groove in said valve body so as to permit rotation of said rotary member relative to said valve body while preventing forward and rearward movement of said rotary member relative to said valve body, and

wherein said rotary member has an annular front end surface, and a plurality of flanges that extend integrally and forwardly from said front end surface of said rotary member and that is inserted into said circular tubular portion of said valve body, said ribs extending respectively, radially and outwardly from said flanges, said circular tubular portion having an annular rear end surface that abuts against said front end surface of said rotary member.

4. (Currently Amended) ~~The air valve as claimed in Claim 2,~~ An air valve for an inflatable object, said air valve comprising:

a rigid, tubular valve body adapted to be disposed fixedly on the inflatable object and defining an air passage that has a front portion and a rear portion;

a sealing member disposed fixedly within said front portion of said air passage of said valve body;

a rotary member disposed rotatably on said valve body in such a manner to prevent forward and rearward movement of said rotary member relative to said valve body; and

a rigid, tubular movable member disposed movably and non-rotatably within said rear portion of said air passage and having a rear end opening that is adapted to be in fluid communication with a connection head of an inflation device in such a manner that the connection head is press fitted within said opening, and a front end wall that is formed with an aperture unit, through which said opening is in fluid communication with said air passage in said valve body, said aperture unit being aligned with said sealing member, said movable member being connected to said rotary member so that, when said rotary member rotates on said valve body, said movable member can move within said air passage between a sealing position, where said front end wall of said movable member abuts against said sealing member so as to close said aperture unit such that air flow between said opening in said movable member and said air passage in said valve body is stopped, and an open position, where said front end wall of said movable member is spaced apart from said sealing member so as to open said aperture unit in said movable member, thereby permitting air flow between said opening in said movable member and said air passage in said valve body,

wherein said valve body includes a generally circular tubular portion, which has an inner surface that is formed with an annular groove, said rotary member being shaped as a ring, being made of a plastic material, and being formed with a plurality of circumferentially extending integral ribs that are received slidably within said annular groove in said valve body so as to

permit rotation of said rotary member relative to said valve body while preventing forward and rearward movement of said rotary member relative to said valve body, and

wherein said inner surface of said circular tubular portion of said valve body is further formed with a flat surface portion, said movable member being shaped as a cylinder which is disposed movably within said circular tubular portion of said valve body and which has a flat outer surface that engages said flat surface portion of said valve body, thereby preventing rotation of said movable member within said valve body.

5. (Currently Amended) ~~The air valve as claimed in Claim 1,~~ An air valve for an inflatable object, said air valve comprising:

a rigid, tubular valve body adapted to be disposed fixedly on the inflatable object and defining an air passage that has a front portion and a rear portion;

a sealing member disposed fixedly within said front portion of said air passage of said valve body;

a rotary member disposed rotatably on said valve body in such a manner to prevent forward and rearward movement of said rotary member relative to said valve body; and

a rigid, tubular movable member disposed movably and non-rotatably within said rear portion of said air passage and having a rear end opening that is adapted to be in fluid communication with a connection head of an inflation device in such a manner that the connection head is press fitted within said opening, and a front end wall that is formed with an aperture unit, through which said opening is in fluid communication with said air passage in said valve body, said aperture unit being aligned with said sealing member, said movable member being connected to said rotary member so that, when said rotary member rotates on said valve

body, said movable member can move within said air passage between a sealing position, where said front end wall of said movable member abuts against said sealing member so as to close said aperture unit such that air flow between said opening in said movable member and said air passage in said valve body is stopped, and an open position, where said front end wall of said movable member is spaced apart from said sealing member so as to open said aperture unit in said movable member, thereby permitting air flow between said opening in said movable member and said air passage in said valve body.

wherein said front end wall of said movable member is circular, and is further formed with a cylindrical neck at a central portion thereof, said neck extending into and being press fitted within said sealing member, thereby establishing an air-tight seal between said neck and said sealing member when said movable member is disposed at said sealing position.

6. (Currently Amended) The air valve as claimed in Claim 1, wherein said movable member has a cylindrical surrounding wall which is formed with ~~said flat outer surface and~~ a curved slide slot that has two closed ends, said rotary member being sleeved rotatably on said movable member and including a fixed push pin that extends radially and inwardly therefrom and that is received slidably within said slide slot in said movable member so as to move said movable member within said air passage in said valve body when said rotary member rotates about said movable member, said movable member being disposed at said sealing position when said pin is moved to one of said ends of said slide slot and at said open position when said pin is moved to the other one of said ends of said slide slot.

7. (Original) The air valve as claimed in Claim 1, wherein said sealing member is configured as an annular gasket, said valve body having a circular tubular portion, which is formed with an inward flange that extends radially and inwardly therefrom, said gasket having an outer surface which is formed with an annular groove that engages fittingly said inward flange of said valve body, thereby fixing said gasket to said valve body.